LEO DROZDOFF. Administrator

(775) 687-4670 Administration Facsimile 687-5856

Water Quality Planning Water Pollution Control Facsimile 687-4684

Mining Regulation & Reclamation Facsimile 684-5259

State of Nevada KENNY C. GUINN Governor

ALLEN BIAGGI, Director

Air Pollution Control Air Quality Planning Facsimile 687-6396

Waste Management Federal Facilities

Corrective Actions Facsimile 687-8335 NDEP.nv.gov

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

901 S. Stewart St. Ste. 4001 Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249

July 11, 2005

NOTICE OF DECISION

Water Pollution Control Permit # NEV0000023

Cortez Joint Venture dba Cortez Gold Mines Cortez Gold Mine Project

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection has decided to renew Water Pollution Control Permit NEV0000023 to Cortez Gold Mines. This renewal permit authorizes the construction, operation, and closure of approved mining facilities in Lander County. The Division has been provided with sufficient information, in accordance with Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.350 through NAC 445A.447, to assure the Division that the groundwater quality will not be degraded by this operation, and that public safety and health will be protected.

The renewal permit will become effective 22 July 2005. The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 445A.605 and NAC 445A.407. All requests for appeals must be filed by 5:00 PM, 18 July 2005, on Form 3, with the State Environmental Commission, 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001, Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249.

For more information, contact <u>Miles Shaw</u> at (775) 687-9409, toll free in Nevada at (800) 992-0900, extension 4670, or visit the Division website at www.ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm.

No comments were received during the public comment period.